

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
NATIONAL DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Disease Control Programme in respect of Blindness and Tuberculosis has met with limited success;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the rate of prevalence of Blindness and Tuberculosis and achievements made thereon so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The National Programme for Control of Blindness was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the goal to reduce the prevalence of blindness from 1.4% to 0.3% by 2020. As per the Survey in 2001-02, prevalence of blindness is estimated to be 1.1%. Target for the 10th Plan is to reduce prevalence of blindness to 0.8% by 2007 by taking following steps:

i) Setting up of State Blindness Control Societies and District Blindness Control Societies in States/UTs.

ii) Providing Eye care facilities to needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.

iii) Strengthening of Eye Banks in Government/Voluntary Sectors.

iv) Financial support to NGOs for strengthening of their existing infrastructure for Eye Care,

v) Intensification of IEC activities etc.

National TB Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in the country in 1962, this could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) which is a WHO recommended strategy was implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1997 in the country in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. By March 2006, all the districts in the country are implementing RNTCP, allowing access of DOTS to all TB patients in the country. Under the Programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti TB drugs are provided free of cost of all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centers have been established for every one lac population in the normal area and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. A treatment success rate of more than 85% has been reported under the revised strategy which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients out on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully treated.